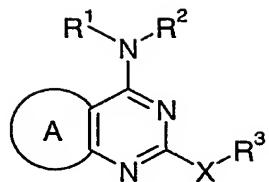


Claims

1. A compound of formula (I)



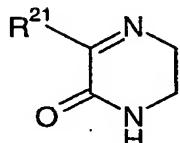
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(I)

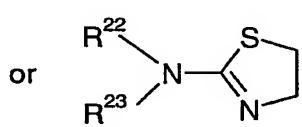
wherein:

A represents a group of formula (a) or (b) or (c):

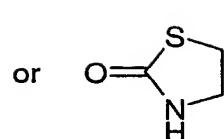
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(a)



(b)



(c)

15 R^1 and R^2 independently represent H, C1 to 8 alkyl, C2 to 8 alkenyl, C2 to 8 alkynyl or C3 to 7 saturated or partially unsaturated cycloalkyl; the latter four groups being optionally further substituted by one or more groups selected independently from OH, C1 to 6 alkoxy, CH_2OR^4 , NR^5R^6 , CO_2R^7 and $CONR^8R^9$;

20 R^3 represents C1 to 6 alkyl, C2 to 6 alkenyl, C2 to 6 alkynyl or C3 to 7 saturated or partially unsaturated cycloalkyl; said alkyl, alkenyl or alkynyl chain optionally including a O, NR^{10} or S atom in the chain; said alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl or cycloalkyl group being optionally substituted by phenyl or a 5 or 6 membered heteroaromatic ring containing 1 to

3 heteroatoms selected independently from O, S and N; said phenyl or heteroaromatic ring being optionally further substituted by one or more groups selected independently from halogen, C1 to 4 alkyl, OH, C1 to 4 alkoxy, CN, CO₂R¹¹, NR¹²R¹³, CONR¹⁴R¹⁵, SO₂R¹⁶, NR¹⁷SO₂R¹⁸ and SO₂NR¹⁹R²⁰;

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X represents O or S(O);

R²¹ represents H, CH₂OR²⁴, CH₂NR²⁴R²⁵, CO₂R²⁴ or CONR²⁴R²⁵;

10 R²² and R²³ independently represent H, C1 to 6 alkyl, C2 to 6 alkenyl or C3 to 7 saturated or partially unsaturated cycloalkyl; said alkyl, alkenyl or cycloalkyl group being optionally substituted by OR²⁴, NR²⁴R²⁵, CO₂R²⁴ or CONR²⁴R²⁵; or the group -NR²²R²³ together represents a 3 to 7 membered saturated azacyclic ring optionally incorporating one further heteroatom selected from O, S(O)_n and NR²⁶; and optionally substituted by OR²⁴,
15 NR²⁴R²⁵, CO₂R²⁴ or CONR²⁴R²⁵;

n represents an integer 0, 1 or 2;

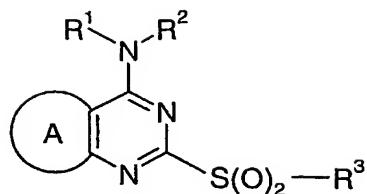
20 R⁴, R⁵, R⁶, R⁷, R⁸, R⁹, R¹⁰, R¹¹, R¹², R¹³, R¹⁴, R¹⁵, R¹⁶, R¹⁷, R¹⁸, R¹⁹, R²⁰, R²⁴, R²⁵ and R²⁶ independently represent H or C1 to 6 alkyl;

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

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2. A compound according to Claim 1 wherein R¹ represents H or CH₃.
3. A compound according to Claim 1 or Claim 2 wherein R² represents C1 to 8 alkyl substituted by OH or C3 to 7 cycloalkyl substituted by OH or CH₂OR⁴.

4. A compound according to any one of Claims 1 to 3 wherein R3 represents C1 to 2 alkyl substituted by phenyl; said phenyl being optionally substituted by halogen, C1 to 6 alkoxy or CN.
5. A compound of formula (I), according to any one of Claims 1 to 4, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, for use as a medicament.
6. A pharmaceutical formulation comprising a compound of formula (I), as defined in any one of Claims 1 to 4, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, optionally in admixture with a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent or carrier.
7. A method of treating, or reducing the risk of, a human disease or condition in which antagonism of the CX₃CR1 receptor is beneficial which comprises administering to a person suffering from or susceptible to such a disease or condition, a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula (I), as defined in any one of Claims 1 to 4, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.
8. The use of a compound of formula (I) as defined in any one of Claims 1 to 4, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment or prophylaxis of human diseases or conditions in which antagonism of the CX₃CR1 receptor is beneficial.
9. The use of a compound of formula (I) as defined in any one of Claims 1 to 4, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment or prophylaxis of neurodegenerative disorders, demyelinating disease, atherosclerosis or pain.
10. A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (I), as defined in any one of Claims 1 to 4, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein the process comprises:
 - (a) when X in formula (I) represents O, reaction of a compound of formula (II)



wherein A, R¹, R² and R³ are as defined in Claim 1;

with a compound of formula (III)

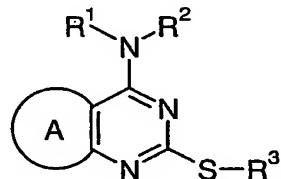
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(III)

wherein R³ is as defined in Claim 1 and is independent of the R³ group in formula (II); or

(b) when X in formula (I) represents S(O), oxidation of a compound of formula (IV)



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(IV)

wherein A, R¹, R² and R³ are as defined in Claim 1; with one equivalent of an oxidising agent;

and where necessary converting the resultant compound of formula (I), or another salt thereof, 15 into a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; or converting the resultant compound of formula (I) into a further compound of formula (I); and where desired converting the resultant compound of formula (I) into an optical isomer thereof.